



Trade Adjustment Assistance

The Trade Act is known as the “Cadillac” of Iowa Workforce Development’s (IWD) services because of the wide-range of benefits available to individuals qualifying for trade adjustment assistance (TAA). Workers whose jobs have been sent overseas or whose hours of work and wages are eliminated or reduced as a result of increased imports are eligible for TAA. Workers acquire these benefits if the Department of Labor (DOL) approves their respective trade petition. Three workers, a company or union official, or a representative of IWD can submit a trade petition to the DOL.

Here is a partial listing of the primary benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program as written by the Department of Labor:

Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) – effectively non-state unemployment insurance

- Up to 130 weeks of cash payments for workers enrolled in full-time training
- Up to 156 weeks of cash payments if the worker was also enrolled in remedial training

Job Search Allowances

- 100% of allowable costs, up to \$1,500

Relocation Allowances

- 100% of costs, up to the statutory limit for Federal Employees
- Provides an additional lump sum payment of up to \$1,500

Training Services

- Training may be approved on a full-time or part-time basis, although full-time training is required for TRA eligibility (the income benefit).
- Certified workers may begin approved training when threatened with separation from adversely affected employment

Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)

- A tax credit covering 80% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium

Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance

- Available to workers 50 years of age or older
- Workers may participate in TAA- approved training
- Requires full-time employment, unless the worker is also enrolled in TAA-approved training and employed at least 20 hours per week, and does not set a deadline for reemployment
- Available only for workers earning less than \$55,000 per year in reemployment
- Maximum benefit of \$12,000 over a period of up to two years
- Participants are eligible for the HCTC

Iowa had \$3,140,002 allotted for use in federal fiscal year FFY 2009 (October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009). It is, however, an entitlement program and Iowa has continually exceeded its allotment. For example, in FFY 2008, Iowa had a final allocation of \$8,408,573. The year prior, 2,848 individuals exited the program, and Iowa had a final allocation of \$12,279,537; in that same period of time, Iowa received twelve authorized trade petitions. Iowa's performance measures for FFY 2009 were as follows:

Average Earnings (2nd and 3rd qtr after exit;6 month wages)	\$13,504
Employed First Quarter after Exit	79%
Retention Rate (% employed 1st Qtr, still employed 3rd Qtr)	91%